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Minden aims to streamline

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

It is a tale as old as time. People purchase property in Minden Hills, and then it takes months to years navigating through the official planning regulations.

Fortunately, Minden Hills is making an effort to improve the process.

On Thursday, May 28, Alison Luoma and Emily Hazell, representatives from J. L. Richards and Associates, visited Minden Hills council to discuss improvements that can be made to the development approval process (DAP).

The goal of their assessment is to modernize and strengthen the capabilities of Minden's planning department and deliver an efficient process, offer a customer-focused service, and respond to the growing developmental demand in Minden Hills.

The review analyzed current processes, governance, structure, delivery, and customer experiences.

"A lot of processes and expectations are dependent on staff knowledge, manual coordination, and evolving practices," said Hazell.

The purpose of the model is to build on Minden's strong foundations while reducing variability and having predictable customer service.

"Stakeholders consistently recognize

see MULTIPLE page 13

Track stars
Local elementary school students from across Haliburton County competed this past weekend at the annual track and field meet, including many students from Archie Stouffer Elementary School. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

A look at the life of Murray

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Many would notice that flags around town have been drawn to half-mast. Dysart's longtime mayor, Murray Fearrey, passed away on Thursday, May 28.

Forever calling the Haliburton Highlands his home, Fearrey was born in the community in 1941. By 1967, he had joined the workforce at the Municipality of Dysart et al as a municipal assessor; a role which allowed him to understand the intricacies of the public sector.

Fearrey was first elected to council in 1971, the same year he became president of the Haliburton Rotary Club. He stepped into the role of County Warden in 1974, and the Reeve of Dysart in 1975, a position he went on to hold for 12 terms.

He returned as warden in 1981 and 1987, and concluded his run as reeve in 1990. In 1994, Fearrey returned to the council table to fill a vacancy, and continued to serve until 2018.

By 2022, Fearrey felt "a responsibility" to return to municipal government, and once again became mayor. In January of this year, at 84-years-old, he announced he had no intention of running in the coming fall election.

Fearrey was present at both the Dysart council meeting this past Tuesday, and the County council meeting on Wednesday via Zoom. He died the following day.

While news of Fearrey's passing spread across the community, his family shared a website that was dedicated to the life and times of the long-serving mayor. "Murray's life was inextricably linked to the

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Community mourns loss of mayor

from page 1

prosperity, growth, and character of the town he called home," it reads. "His story is not just a political biography; it is the modern history of Haliburton itself."

The tribute site brings attention to one of Fearrey's earliest acts in the leadership role: directing the $30,000 proceeds from the sale of the Dysart Light Company into a newly established municipal reserve fund.

With the action taking place in the 1970s, the amount represented a significant sum for a rural community, and the fund continues to finance Dysart equipment to this day. "It was a quiet act of fiscal stewardship that speaks volumes about the kind of leader Murray always was," reads the site, "thinking not just about the present, but about the community's long-term wellbeing."

County Warden Dave Burton shared his condolences towards his longtime colleague and friend this past week. "Murray was a dedicated leader who made an exceptional and lasting contribution to the County through his public service, and his passing is a great loss to our community," he said. "On behalf of County council and staff, I offer our sincere condolences to his family, friends, council and staff at the municipality of Dysart et al, and to our community mourning his loss."

Carol Moffatt worked alongside Fearrey during her role as the former mayor of Algonquin Highlands. "Murray was a significant mentor to me, even if he may not have known it," she said. "We didn't always see things the same way, but I learned a tremendous amount from him. He was strategic, practical, solution-focused, and often several steps ahead in his thinking."

In his final term, Fearrey continued to commit to the development and betterment of the community he always called home. "Murray Fearrey left behind a legacy built not on grandstanding, but on a lifetime of showing up, doing the work, and caring deeply for the place he called home," shared his family.

"He had a terrific sense of humour and a deeply caring side," said Moffatt. "Many may not realize how much he quietly did for individuals, organizations, and community projects outside of his public role. He never did those things for attention or accolades; he did them because he genuinely wanted to help."

The family of Murray Fearrey will be hosting a visitation for the community on Friday, June 5 at the Haliburton Community Funeral Home. "Much like he never sought recognition, Murray's wishes were for a humble and no-fuss remembrance," reads the funeral announcement. "The family wishes to honour that."

As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation - Emergency Services and Acute Care would be appreciated by the family.

Pictured, Dysart Mayor Murray Fearrey receives the first poppy of the season from Haliburton Legion President Mike Waller last October. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Huskies call it quits in Haliburton County

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

After five years of community support, the owners of the Haliburton County Huskies have confirmed they are moving the team to Cobourg, citing a loss of between $30,000 to $50,000 each season. /FILE

The beloved Haliburton County Huskies have found a new home. "Junior A hockey in Haliburton County is simply not sustainable," said the owner of the team, Paul Wilson, in an email sent to fans and ticket holders on May 28. "I am sorry to have to inform you that the Huskies will no longer be operating in Haliburton County."

In February of this year, Wilson announced that he would be passing the ownership torch to head coach of the team, Ryan Ramsay. The team came to the area five years ago, and took the region by storm with merchandise, community events, and sold-out games at the S.G. Nesbitt Arena in Minden.

While the league was seemingly successful on the surface, the ongoing costs took their toll. "The team loses between $30,000 and $50,000 every year," said Wilson. "Even though we do have significant income from donations, sponsorships, ticket sales, player fees, et cetera, there is never enough to cover an annual operating budget of approximately $500,000."

While Ramsay was being primed to take over the leadership role, Wilson was covering the forfeited costs personally. He secured all sponsors, ads, game day banners, programs, season's tickets, and stocked the bars on game days, to name a few items. He also doled out $150,000 on the team's locker room at the Minden site, and $20,000 installing drink rails in the rink. It's a passion project, but he noted that age was catching up with him.

"I decided to pass the torch to Ryan Ramsay with the hope that we could cut costs enough to balance the budget," said Wilson. "However, after a reassessment of potential revenues given the loss of a few major sponsors coupled with ever increasing league fees, it became obvious that annual losses were inevitable and Ryan is not in a position to cover the losses."

Wilson noted that he has received an offer from Cobourg to move the team there. "I am confident that financial success in Cobourg is at least a possibility given a much greater population base and a bigger arena," he said. Wilson confirmed he will stay on as owner, with Ramsay maintaining his role as General Manager for the team.

But this may not be the end of minor hockey in the area. "I am currently investigating the possibility of establishing a Junior C team that could operate out of the Minden Arena in the same fashion as the Junior A team," said Wilson. "If Minden is agreeable, the team could use the same dressing room, use the same jerseys, sell the same merchandise, run a game day bar in the warm viewing area and schedule games for the same 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon time slot."

Currently there are 61 Junior C hockey teams across Ontario. "Another positive is that most of the players on a Junior C team are local, so friends and family will become fans," said Wilson. "If all goes well, a team could be in place for the upcoming season."

Mayor of Minden Hills, Bob Carter, noted that the team would be greatly missed. "It's been a number of years of fun watching them represent our whole community," he said. "They've also been an inspiration for some young folks. But at the end of the day, I recognize that it's a business."

Carter noted that the Huskies were one of the "base tenants" of the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena, but interest in the centre has continued to build over the years. "We're getting more and more other needs and wants for ice time," he said. "(Hockey) was just one of the facets of the jewels of the town."

Wilson noted that it has been difficult to navigate these next steps. "I am both sad and disappointed that I had to make this decision," he said. "My dream was to bring Junior A hockey to Haliburton County on a permanent basis. I am proud of the fact that the Huskies franchise has been very successful in that it has iced a competitive team every year, had a dedicated fan base and had a group of very supportive sponsors and helpers."

Wilson and Ramsay voiced their gratitude for the community, billet families, and supporters who made Huskies hockey a success over the past five years. "I wish there was a solution to keep the team here but we have exhausted all of our options," said Wilson. "Again, I apologize for having to make this move but there are no alternatives. Hopefully we can make a seamless transition to Junior C to keep hockey fever alive in Haliburton County."

Habitat forges ahead on housing

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

The long-discussed housing project on Peninsula Road is seeking a $12.5 million boost from Infrastructure Ontario to move ahead with the proposed 35-unit development.

During last Wednesday's County council meeting, Habitat for Humanity's CEO Susan Zambonin, along with colleague Neil Campbell, came to the council table to discuss an update on the plan, which has been in the works since last September.

Habitat for Humanity is partnering with local organization Places for People, to offer 15 of the proposed 35 units to be available through their affordable housing initiatives. "Their intention is that it will be for worker housing," said Zambonin, "because there is such a need in this area." The remainder of the one and two bedroom units will be available for Habitat through their home-ownership program.

Zambonin has noted that the land has been purchased for the development, with loans from Haliburton County Development Corporation and their partners. Travis Braun of Braun Custom Builds has stepped in as the construction manager, with Campbell stepping in from Aside Architects.

Habitat noted that they have been working closely with Dysart to confirm the planning process and are well underway for development.

The buildings will be three-storeys high, based on their preliminary drafts. "One thing we would like to ask, we would like council to ask the staff to inquire with Infrastructure Ontario about acquiring construction financing for up to three years," said Zambonin. "We've done some research, affordable housing can be considered for this type of loan … it's one way that the County could help us that actually doesn't cost you anything. That's how we would like some help."

Haliburton Heights

Zambonin announced during the council meeting that Habitat for Humanity has made an offer to purchase the Haliburton Heights timeshare, located at 1699 Wigamog Road. Their intention is to convert 22 condo affordable homeownership units, comprised of six studios, six one-bedrooms, and 10 two-bedroom spaces. The project requires rezoning and an Official Plan amendment.

The Habitat CAO noted that the property is on the market, and the units are currently well-maintained. Zambonin confirmed that they have met with Dysart staff to discuss planning regulations needed for the conversion and upgrades around the units.

Once again, it was asked of County staff to inquire to Infrastructure Ontario about acquisition financing of $3 million for up to three years.

County council received the presentation from Habitat for Humanity as information, and directed staff to look into the request with Infrastructure Ontario.

Foundation director moves on

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

When you know, you know.

And for Melanie Klodt Wong, she knew when it was time for a change.

For the executive director of the Haliburton Highlands Health Service Foundation (HHHSF), the past three and a half years have been busy, booming, and inspirational. "I'm proud of what we've done," she said, looking back at her years with the organization. "The community has a strong culture of supporting each other, and I think we shifted that to a community of giving."

HHHSF announced early last week that Klodt Wong would be leaving her position. "The Foundation Board would like to take this opportunity to thank Melanie for her over three years of service," said David Blodgett, the chair of the board. "Her leadership has contributed to the strong community support we are fortunate to receive and to the very successful 'Here for You in the Highlands' campaign."

With over 20 years of relational leadership experience, Klodt Wong has held a variety of positions prior to her role with the Foundation, including stage management, not-for-profit work, and over ten years with the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF).

Klodt Wong and her husband moved to the area following the isolation they felt during the COVID-19 pandemic, living in downtown Toronto. While they both have backgrounds in the arts, they quickly found their community in the Haliburton Highlands, and dedicated their efforts and skillsets to the region.

While they didn't have specific ties to the area, they first visited in 2006, and stayed at Ogopogo Resort. The region appealed to them, with its variety of restaurants, events, and arts offerings. Now, they call their homebase right near Ogopogo, with echoes of their early days still tethering to their decisions.

Klodt Wong laughed as she was asked "the first question everyone asks,": Is she staying in the community?

"Of course," she answered, "this is home."

While it wasn't an easy decision to move on from the Foundation, Klodt Wong knew it was time. She will be starting her Masters in Philanthropy and Not-For-Profit Leadership at Carleton University next week. "I want to take what I know, and know it better," she said. "This was a big deal, but I have really strong support."

Melanie Klodt Wong is moving on from the Haliburton Highlands Health Foundation to focus on next steps. /FILE

Klodt Wong will commit her energy to the two year program, and then direct her efforts towards the right industry upon graduating. While she's not entirely narrowed down her area of focus, she recognizes that there are endless options in the world of working with people.

A replacement is not in place yet for Klodt Wong's role, but the Foundation noted that they are actively preparing for the transition, and remains focused on the important work of supporting exceptional healthcare in the community.

Haliburton free Bike Share season open

Haliburton free Bike Share is now open for the season. New this year, the Rotary Bike Share is now part of the Haliburton County Community Co-operative.

The bikes are free for use by all residents and visitors who are 18 years old or older. The bikes can be unlocked with a smart phone and a credit card. The credit card is for security purposes only. Bike rentals are completely free if the bicycles are returned undamaged. Helmets are provided at no cost in our new yellow dock box located next to the bike racks. Users are strongly urged to use a helmet.

Usage of the bikes is limited to Dysart et al and we anticipate most riders will cycle along the Rail Trail. Users may check out a bike for up to three hours at a time.

The bikes are available during daylight hours (currently 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. but the hours of operations will be amended as the days shorten). The Bike Share is operational until the end of the Thanksgiving weekend when the bikes will be stored indoors for the winter.

Haliburton Rotary would like to thank our exclusive sponsor, Algonquin Outfitters.

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Community Living unionized employees shut down vote

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

During a vote for next steps of the ongoing Community Living strike, it was identified on the evening of Monday, May 25, that unionized employees did not accept the offer presented by their employer, Community Living Trent Highlands (CLTH).

In the absence of a central bargaining table, CLTH is representing the employees when going to the Ford Government, seeking retribution from Bill-124, which was deemed unconstitutional by the Ontario Superior Court in 2022.

The bill capped public sector wage increases at 1 per cent annually for three years.

In an effort to keep operations moving, CLTH presented an option for union staff to accept or deny last week through a voting process. "But the employer couldn't confirm that there would be no layoffs," explained Jessica Bushey, the president of the local Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) branch. "That was the issue we had with that offer."

The ask from employees is two-pronged. They are seeking 3 per cent increase from their employer, which is the sector standard, according to Bushey. They are then seeking for an additional 6.5 per cent from the province, to remedy payment back from Bill-124.

On Monday, May 25, the employees shot down the offer from CLTH. "We are pleased that our members have exercised their right to vote, regardless of how they voted, the solidarity we are seeing is incredible," said Bushey. "Moving forward we will continue to put pressure on the Ford government to give us a Bill-124 remedy, alongside the over 4,000 workers province wide."

Teresa Jordan, the executive director of CLTH, voiced the employers next steps in regards to turning down the offer. "We are assured that unionized employees of CLTH had the opportunity to exercise their right to choose, as 301 union members cast their vote," she said. "We respect the outcome of this vote, and the assurance it offers that Local 358 is fully committed to continuing their labour action against the provincial government."

Jordan confirmed that the safety of Community Living residents remains of the utmost importance during this time. "In the coming days during this labour interruption, our most important priority and our 100 per cent focus is delivering services and support to our residents and the many people who rely upon us," she said. "We continue to believe in a locally negotiated settlement ... We remain ready, as we have been these past months, to go back to the table and negotiate a fair and reasonable settlement that works for both CLTH and Local 358."

Novice Boy Ryder Hudson stretches to a third place finish in the Long Jump on May 21. /Photo by Mike Gervais

Red Hawks set five new school records

The Red Hawk Track and Field competed at the COSSA Championships Wednesday, May 21 held at Thomas A. Stewart in Peterborough. The ideal weather conditions led to several COSSA records being broken that day and HHSS athletes setting many personal bests, five new school records and 25 Red Hawks qualifying for OFSAA East Regionals at Thousand Islands Secondary School in Brockville next week.

Novice Girl Quinn Hamilton bettered her own school record in the 1500m with her time of 5:20.37 to finish third, eclipsing the mark of 5:24.50 set by Erika Hoare in 2022. Kendall Park put down a fast 400m, finishing in 1:02.12, shaving nearly two seconds from the Novice Girls record set by Annika Gervais last year.

Junior Boy Jadyn Hamilton continued his winning streak, taking COSSA gold in the 200m with a time of 23.54, stealing Mike Bradley's Junior Boys 200m record of 23.6 that has been standing since 1996. Jadyn also ran to a decisive win in the 400m.

Another long-standing record was broken by Senior Boy Fynn Gooley in the Long Jump with a huge leap of 6.35m, bettering Chris Greenfield's mark of 6.21m that dates back to 1993.

And Senior Girl Ella Gervais, who has been running consistently all season, turned up the tempo in the Senior Girls 3000m to finish in a personal best of 11:54.22, just under Erika Hoare's 11:55.16 record set in 2024.

COSSA golds were also earned by Lyla Degeer in Novice Girls 80m hurdles; Annika Gervais in Junior Girls 800m; Luke Gruppe in Junior Boys Discus; Violet Humphries in 2000m Steeplechase; and Addyson Parish with double gold in Senior Girls Long and Triple Jump.

The Novice Girls 4x100 relay team of Degeer, Park, Quinn Hamilton and Elyse Kernohan captured gold while the Junior and Senior boys raced strong with clean exchanges to both earn COSSA silver.

In overall total points, HHSS finished fourth out of 31 COSSA schools.

Submitted

Jadyn Hamilton and Quinn Hamilton show off their COSSA medals. /photo by Karen Gervais

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Turning a corner; on the *brink* with local art curator

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

David Partridge isn't out to create an art gallery.

He wants to build a community.

That's the mindset behind the curator of the Corner Gallery, who recently launched his fourth show, entitled *Brink*, on Saturday, May 23.

The show is a cumulation of artists who have displayed at the gallery before, as well as some new faces. But all pieces have a common thread, displayed and cultivated in their own way: on the brink. "I don't want to guide their hand," explained Partridge, as he dove into the process of creating a theme for a new show. "I just want art to be a little more confrontational up here."

"Brink" can refer to any number of things, said Partridge. Brink of dawn? Of course. Brink of collapse? Also applicable. The show captures colours and landscapes; the edge of a cliff, a teetering tree, a bird taking flight.

But it also showcases bold statements. A scribbled poem, a mangled edge, a Canadian flag, torn in half and bleeding across an American dollar.

As it is with any form of art, the viewer is the ultimate decision maker around the meaning. "I really try to distill with the way I think," said Partridge. "Big thoughts with few words."

But the conversations are something Partridge has already established. When he took over the Corner Gallery nearly two years ago, he implemented a regular practice: Coffee Club. One day a week, two hours, endless conversation. "This is what makes it feel like church," he said. "I love it."

Curator David Partridge is eager to welcome community members to the Corner Gallery to see the work collected for current show, *Brink*. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

As an atheist, Partridge was initially wary of the comparisons being drawn to the weekly meet-up, and that of a religious destination. "But it's all about community," he said. "I think it's the most important thing I've done."

It's a place where people feel safe, where all are welcome, and where conversations and thoughts flow freely through the curling corners of the gallery.

> ***"The reason I think this is working is because of our community."***
>
> — David Partridge, Corner Gallery curator

The gallery is a destination unto itself; shaped like an old home as opposed to an art space. The rooms are warm and inviting, with pieces showcased in every crevice and crease; a teaser for what they may look like in your own home.

During the opening of *Brink*, Partridge sold 14 pieces. The most in Corner Gallery history for a debut day. "The energy was so high," he said, "and the conversations were all about art. The compliment that meant the most to me was when artists were coming in, and saying it looks amazing."

But at the end of the day, to Partridge, it's not about the business. "We have to decide if we want to be business first or community first," he said, noting the world he's created through Coffee Club, through networking, through listening and learning and asking questions. "The reason I think this is working is because of our community."

Brink will be on display at the Corner Gallery, 123 Maple Avenue, for the duration of the summer months.

Final Speakers Series planned for the season

The final "Telling Our Stories" Speakers Series presentation for the 2025-2026 season is on Wednesday, June 10. This talk will be delivered by local resident Sarah Patrick and is titled *Life Inside a Cult of Obedience,* the story of Ms. Patrick's time as a student, and later as a teacher, at the infamous Grenville Christian College near Brockville, Ontario. Using "tough love", this school preyed on youthful insecurities and the need to belong to instill obedience and complicity. The school was also the subject of a W5 investigation.

Ms. Patrick holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Queens University and since the early 1980s has worked as a publicist, a high school teacher and an executive assistant in commercial real estate. She is the author of the award-winning memoir, *Binding Shame: Life Inside a Cult of Obedience.*

The Speakers Series, a member of the Haliburton County Community Cooperative, takes place on the second Wednesday of each month from 7-9 p.m. Please note: "Telling Our Stories" Speakers Series has moved to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129 in Haliburton.

Admission is $15/person. Pre-registration is highly recommended. To obtain tickets, contact Barrie Martin at 705-457-7557 or by email at barrieinthehighlands@gmail.com

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Murray

OVER THE decades, many things have changed in the newspaper world. Canadian Press standards, new words, outdated language. The methods with which we type and copy and paste have evolved and shifted.

But there is one thing that myself and all the editors of the *Haliburton Echo* and the *Minden Times* from the past 50 years have in common: Murray Fearrey is one of the names we have written the most.

His name has been typed on keyboards and typewriters, whispered into recorders and saved on Zoom calls. Scribbled from pen to paper, quoted in ink and indentations.

Editorial

Emily Stonehouse

Because while we've changed, there has been one steady force through the years.

Murray Fearrey dedicated his life to the community. And while it's no secret that we didn't always see eye to eye on all topics and conversations, we had a mutual respect for one another over the years. I believe that to be the sign of a professional, on both parts.

He was a person that falls into the category of 'they just don't make them like that anymore.' Quiet and patient, level-headed and smart.

While his pace for decision making slowed near the end, it never came to a stop. He did something many of us should learn from: he asked questions, he looked at all angles, he took his time before doing anything rash, he saw all sides of the story.

In an era where politics and power comes fast and furious, Murray was a steady force. He didn't feel the need for flashiness or prose. He thought about the community on a bigger stage, first and foremost, near and far.

Of course I watched his last two council meetings. His presence popping in and out of the Zoom calls. And while he seemed to be slowing down, he was actively present. He showed up. Literally right to the end. A strange week as a writer; noting his contributions during a council meeting one day, writing his obituary article the next.

But I couldn't see him doing life any other way. He quite literally committed his entire life to local government, to community politics, to decisions that impact the next generation. Right to his very last day.

As I watched him on the call, I made a note to call him next week. Because while I have written his name countless times in articles on a weekly basis for years, I had never truly sat down and heard his story. The life of a man who never left home.

The note was bookmarked at the top of my story ideas for the following week. By Thursday, I received a notice that he had passed. Less than one day after his last council meeting.

I should have taken a page from Murray's own outlook on life. Should have asked questions, should have looked at all the angles.

It's too late now, and I kick myself for that. But watching the community respond to the death of an individual who led our charge for decades has reminded me that we're not all so different after all. While power and politics come fast and furious, at the end of the day, they're not nobodies, they're neighbours, not figureheads, they're friends.

And while there have been many changes over the years, a steady force can go a long way.

From the team at the *Haliburton Echo* and the *Minden Times*, we send our condolences to the team at Dysart and the family and friends of Murray Fearrey.

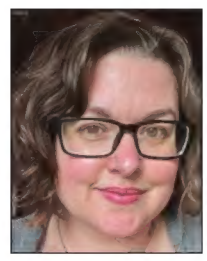
Thank you for letting us have a role in his story.

Little dramas

IF YOU ask someone what their favourite show is, you may find that their answer doesn't come from a television network or streaming service at all, but is instead part of a relatively recent entertainment phenomenon: the microdrama.

A microdrama is a story that's told in several short video clips (usually only one or two minutes long). The stories mainly fall under the soap opera or telenovela genres with lots of melodrama, romance, and intrigue. A series can be just a few scenes or they can number upwards of a hundred, with each scene constructed to entice the viewer to watch the next one through the liberal use of cliffhangers. Microdramas are also called vertical dramas, referring to the primarily vertical format – a 9:16 aspect ratio – of most smartphone screens.

Humans &



Technology

Erin Kernohan-Berning

Microdramas first rose to popularity in China, evolving from sketch comedy performances on Douyin (the Chinese version and predecessor to TikTok). Called duanju, which translates to short drama, microdramas made over $7 billion U.S. in 2024, overtaking conventional film revenue in China. South Korean content creators have also been pursuing K-dramas in microdrama format. These bite sized dramas most often generate their revenue through apps dedicated to the format. Users download the app, get to watch an episode or two for free, and then have to pay (usually per episode) to watch the rest.

It's taken longer for the microdrama to catch on in North America, but the format is starting to gain a foothold on this side of the world. Last year, Fox Entertainment invested in Ukranian platform Holywater, and Disney invested in the Chinese-Singaporean app DramaBox.

As an artform, microdramas are heavily influenced by analytics and the data apps collect to track their viewers. Creators get instant feedback on the engagement their episodes attract, double down on what audiences respond to, and throw out what isn't a within-the-hour viral success. The aim isn't necessarily to tell a new kind of story, or to explore a particular topic with any sort of depth – the aim is to capture attention and make money. Certainly, it can be argued that this is the same goal of our own mainstream entertainment enterprises. Hollywood is well known for its profit motives, and in hindsight some of my favourite childhood cartoons were just extended ads for Mattel toys. But on the teetertotter of art vs. monetization, microdramas currently appear to be balanced more toward the latter.

Researcher Nu'a Bon argues that with microdramas surging in popularity, consumer protections need to be put in place. Apps employ much of the deceptive design we see in social media and across the wider attention economy – apps optimized to retain users, to pay-to-continue, and cliff-hangers as a prompt to pay.

On the production side, while many actors have been finding steady work in microdramas, the work environment is reportedly intense (microdramas are filmed rapidly over a short period of time), with sets lacking the protections that traditional unionized workplaces have. The format is also primed for the use of AI – with some platforms already embracing the use of AI-assisted editing, foreign language dubbing, and even AI generated actors. The Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists has begun to pilot agreements for unionized actors to perform in microdramas in Canada, securing wage protections as well as health and safety practices.

Like streaming before it, the microdrama represents both an evolution in video entertainment and a disruption to it. It's a product of our time – most of us carry a palm-sized computer in our pocket that can double as a TV, and entertainment snacks can be enticing when a few minutes is all we really have between our daily obligations. It's also a product of the attention economy and design concepts championed by tech companies to maximize their profits through engagement.

Whether the microdrama is an artform that appeals to you or not, I think we'll start to see even conventional television and film start to adopt a shorter, punchier cadence to compete for our increasingly monetized attention. The next time you ask someone what their favourite show is, they'll likely be able to watch an episode with you in less time than it took you to read this column.

points of view

Aye, there's the rub

IF IT were up to my dog, I would spend five to ten hours a day rubbing her belly. Lucky for everyone involved, I refuse to spoil Rosie, so she only gets four to eight hours at most.

I know this sounds like a lot of belly rubbing. But there is an upside to all of this. When you rub your dog's belly that much, you have time to think. For instance, the other day while in the middle of one of Rosie's belly rubs, I was thinking, "I probably shouldn't have told Jenn I was too tired to give her a shoulder rub." Followed by, "I didn't know that she could shoot daggers from her eyes."

That's the kind of deep thinking you do when giving your dog a belly rub.

What I'd like to explain to Jenn and other spouses is that, when your dog asks you to rub its belly, you are contractually obligated to do so. It's part of the man's best friend agreement, in Section 4, paragraph 6, I believe. But – don't despair – it's not like you don't get anything in return.

Loon Tales

Steve Galea

For instance, my dog has never once scooted or barked at a passing school bus, while receiving a belly rub. And I think we can all agree those are big wins.

Also, every time I do this, I am upping my belly rubbing game. I am learning little techniques like pausing and patting the belly lightly while saying, "Who's a good pup? Who's a good pup?"

Admittedly, unless I get a job in a questionable massage parlour, these skills are not transferable. But it's not like the belly rubber doesn't get anything out of the exchange. You get to watch a dog that is stuck on its back try to roll over. Or watch a dog fall asleep mid-belly rub, with all four limbs sticking straight up like some sort of road kill. And there are few things funnier than these.

If Jenn did similar things during a shoulder rub, she'd be getting a lot more of them.

Right about now, women who watch their partner do this magic to the dog, might be asking, why does my partner have endless hours for belly rubbing our dog, and not 15 minutes to give me a back or shoulder rub? All I can say is, if the best relationship counsellors have no answer to this, how can you expect one from me?

In my defense, I have no real say in it. Rosie is very persuasive and does not beat around the bush on such important matters.

She just jumps on the couch beside me and plops on her back. Then she looks at me as if to say, "This belly isn't going to rub itself."

It's either comply or be labelled a dog abuser.

I try to look at the bright side of all this.

Dog behaviourists will tell you that when a dog lies on its back and shows you its belly, it is a sign that they trust you so much that they are willing to expose the most vulnerable part of their body.

I said that to Jenn the other day, right after I walked in the door and took off my hat.

She nodded as if she understood. Then, for some strange reason, she immediately started giving me a brain rub.

pic *of the* past

This postcard was submitted of Hotel Dorset in Dorset. On the back, the following note was scribbled in: "Very bad coffee and dreadful blueberry pie had we here August 4, 1954."/FILE

Blood and guts

HE STOOD at the open cottage door, blood streaming down from his temples. But he seemed to pay it no heed. Nick looked at this tall rangy man with the dirty boots and wondered how he could stand it. Sunlight shone behind him, outlining his profile like some messenger from another world.

It was black fly season at the cottage and to Nick, that was a juxtaposition of heaven and hell. After a tedious, predictable winter in the city, Nick and his parents were back north preparing for the summer that waited just out of reach. But it was coming, he thought as he continued to marvel at Fred's appearance.

Fred had dropped by to see what chores might need doing before the onslaught of the tourist season hit full swing. Roof mending, wood piling, garden turning: these were all on the list. Nick's mother was also looking for ideas on how to keep the groundhog out of her vegetables when the time came.

As Fred continued in place, listening as Nick's dad discussed weather and the general state of the world with him, Nick couldn't stand it any longer and blurted out the question. How could Fred stand all those black fly bites? Fred just shrugged and said he was used to them and they'd soon be gone. But Nick's question moved the conversation into another direction as Fred warmed to the subject. Nick's dad also seemed interested in what the tall man had to say on the subject.

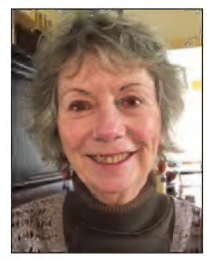
The thing about bugs, as Fred put it, was you just had to ignore them. On the other hand he knew people tried different tactics to foil the critters. Why his own cousin swore by motor oil smeared on his hard hat when he worked outdoors, saying the oil attracted the bugs which then became stuck on the hat. In no time it would turn black.

Nick watched as his father took in this information. What about insect repellent, father and son queried at the same time. Fred dismissed this idea as expensive nonsense. At this point Nick got the impression Fred thought repellent was for sissies. His dad just grunted a response.

Then it was time to walk around to the back of the cottage where some shingles had come off the outhouse. The trees were thick here, leaves just starting to emerge and raspberry canes catching on clothing. Fred looked up at the small roof suggesting it might be wise to replace all the shingles since more were likely loose. Nick watched the two men from indoors, a dark cloud in the air above their heads.

Once jobs and timelines were established, Fred climbed back into his truck and headed down the cottage road. He had more stops to make on a busy weekend, and more black flies to ignore in the process. After he had left, Nick's dad shook his head in disbelief. That is one tough guy, he remarked to Nick.

Down Our road



Sharon Lynch

letters to the editor

Thanks to local hospital

To the Editor,

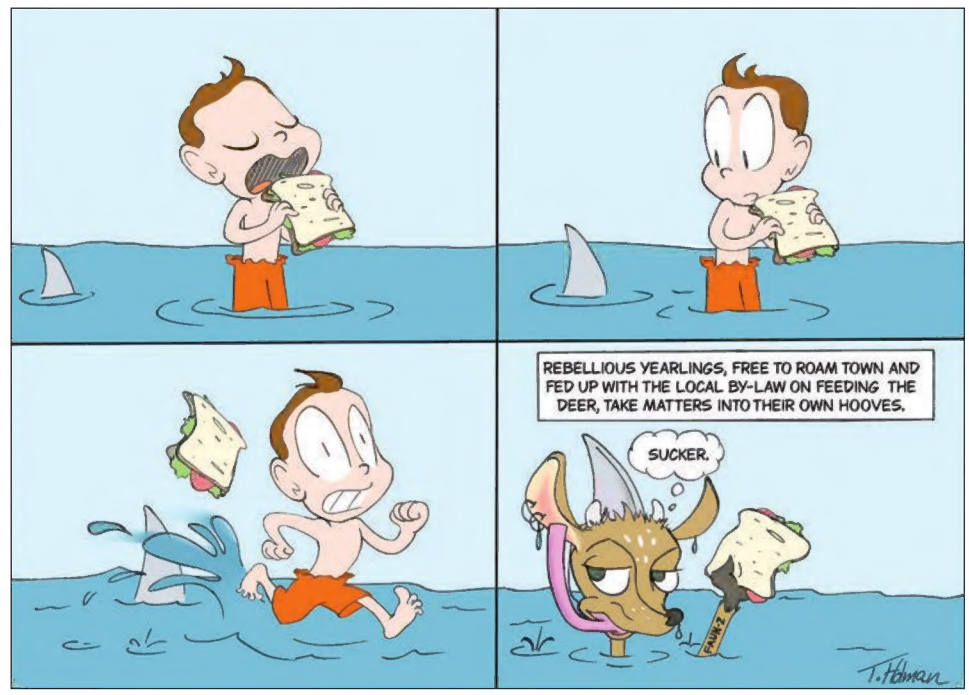
Recently my husband spent almost a week in Haliburton Hospital. We would like to thank the doctors and nurses and in fact, all of the staff, for the tremendous care he received both in the ER and when he was moved into the hospital. We could not have asked for better care.

Also thanks to our friends for visits and for helping me at the cottage.

Larry and Shirley McDowell, Haliburton

Letters to the Editor note: Submissions are subject to editing for newspaper style and punctuation.

HALIWOOD NORTH


REBELLIOUS YEARLINGS, FREE TO ROAM TOWN AND FED UP WITH THE LOCAL BY-LAW ON FEEDING THE DEER, TAKE MATTERS INTO THEIR OWN HOOVES.
SUCKER.
T.Hamon

A wrap on Those Other Movies

We are wrapping up the Those Other Movies (TOM) season with a lighthearted road trip movie to kick off the summer! Join us for our last Thursday movie of the season.

On June 11, we will be screening *Holy Days*. This comedy set in New Zealand has been a crowd pleaser in communities across the film circuit. Accompanied by a young Maori boy who is on his own mission related to his recently deceased mother, three unconventional nuns embark on a wild and chaotic road trip across New Zealand to retrieve the deeds to their convent. When an unexpected snowstorm derails their journey, they soon find themselves confronting loss, mortality and the transformative power of love, forgiveness and connection.

Tickets are just $10 - cash at the door or purchase online from www.thoseothermovies.com.

Looking ahead with Those Other Movies:

We are excited to celebrate 20 years of stories - one community, a world of voices. Season Passes for our 20th anniversary 2026/27 season will be on sale at the June movie and are also available on our website: www.thoseothermovies.com. The cost for the passes remains at $70 for eight movies. What a deal! Please bring cash or cheque for in person purchases.

Mark your calendar for the 2026/27 dates Thursdays with TOM - the second-Thursday of every month

Thurs. Sept. 10
Thurs. Oct. 8
Thurs. Dec. 10
Thurs. Jan. 14
Thurs. Feb. 11
Thurs. Mar. 11
Thurs. May 13
Thurs June 10

Haliburton International Film Festival (HIFF)

November 6,7,8 2026

Doc(k) Day

Saturday, April 3, 2027

Watch our website www.thoseothermovies.com and social media pages for more information about our 20th Anniversary year.

For more information, contact: thoseothermovies@gmail.com

Submitted

"Where ART we? Why is art crucial to humankind's existence?"

Following his presentation on the same topic at the Community Coffee House in June 2025, Xavier Massé will continue to share how art is critical to our personal well-being and how it is crucial to our existence and is a foundation for communities. Xavier, well-known in this area as the most recent dean of the Haliburton School of Art and Design, has also been the interim dean at the ECV School of Art and Design in Paris. An artist in his own right as a drawer, painter, and printmaker, Xavier takes the opportunity to capture the texture of the world.

The evening will begin with music by Loney, Love and Love, a popular Haliburton-area trio, consisting of Ken Loney, Linda Love and Jim Love, who will entertain us with original songs and audience favourites - and may provide a preview of their forthcoming EP.

This Community Coffee House will take place on Monday, June 8 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Haliburton Legion on 719 Mountain St. It will be the last session of the winter/spring 2026 series, adjourning over the summer. These gatherings are open to all, at no admission fee, and no reservations required, with light refreshments available. They are hosted by the Baha'i community of Haliburton County, offering live music and presentations to inform and inspire, and providing a space for discussions about how we can make our communities better places.

For further information, please call 705-286-3378.

Submitted

Minden Memories

Bert Edward Schroter, left, poses proudly with family members beside their new 1924 Oakland Six, Model 54. According to his son, Arnold, standing beside his father, it was the first four-wheel brake vehicle in Haliburton County. The picture was taken by Arnold's mother, Lottie, at the family farm at the corner of what is now County Road One and Highway 121. The family owned the vehicle until 1932 when, at 23,000 miles, they sold it. Arnold still has the owner's manual for the car. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

HALIBURTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Book of the Week

In an Italian monastery, a dying sculptor named Mimo recounts the story of his life to the monks guarding his haunting masterpiece, a statue that has captivated all who see it.

Born into poverty and shaped by a brutal apprenticeship, Mimo's life changes when he meets Viola Orsini, the brilliant daughter of a powerful aristocratic family. Bound by a shared sense of being outsiders—Mimo because of his dwarfism, Viola because of her extraordinary mind—the two form a deep connection that endures through decades of upheaval, from the rise of fascism to the devastation of war. Over the decades, they will lose and find each other time and again, but never will they give up on the love they share.

Watching Over Her by Jean-Baptiste Andrea is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library. Visit haliburtonlibrary.ca to place a hold or learn more.

There's no place like the Home Show

The annual Haliburton County Home show was busy for the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of this past weekend. With hundreds coming to visit the many booths spread across the Haliburton Curling Club and A.J. LaRue Arena, there was something for everyone visiting the annual show. Proceeds from the event goes back into the local curling club initiatives. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

APPLE TREE RECORDING STUDIO
home of MAKKsound
www.MAKKsound.com

Known for his beautiful wood carvings, a reduction in his log supply has lead to artist Walter van der Windt's decision to replace his chainsaw with a painter's brush. Carvings will still be available from Van der Windt and other artists at his studio located at 8895 Highway 35. /THOMAS SMITH staff

From chainsaw chokes to brush strokes

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

For Moore Falls artist Walter van der Windt, his journey as an artist began at a hospital in Holland. Being treated over the course of several weeks, his kind neighbour decided to teach him how to draw, starting a lifelong love of expression and creativity.

At 11, his family immigrated from Holland to the Canadian Niagara Region.

"I won the Grade 6 art award more out of enthusiasm and not being able to speak English," he said.

To this day, his artist trophy sits on a shelf in his studio.

While his life brought him into business consultancy, another health ailment forced him to rest for two years. During this time, he taught himself woodcarving, and decided that he wanted to lead a career using his own talents as an artist.

Striving for an artist's lifestyle, he explored a variety of artforms including welding, whittling, and chiselling, before finally finding his bread and butter, the chainsaw.

When he started, he had to rely on books to teach himself how to carve. Nowadays, inspiration can strike him from anywhere in the world through YouTube.

"I figured out very quickly that cottage country was my target audience and that I needed to be on a busy highway," he said.

Purchasing the former bait shop on Highway 35, Van der Windt has operated his Carving Gallery at 8895 Highway 35 for over 20 years.

"It is like a meditation," said Van der Windt. While peaceful chainsaw carving may seem like a contradiction, he says that the focus you have while meticulously slicing the wood allows you to lose yourself in a meditative state - while wearing proper hearing protection, of course.

Over the past few years, he has developed a symbiotic relationship with local tree removers and landscapers. Whenever a softwood like a white pine is harvested, they are happy for him to take the logs off their hands.

From his experience over the last two decades, Van der Windt's best seller has been black bear carvings. With some clients purchasing new black bears from him every year, he worries that he has carved his way into a box.

Without the costs of purchasing wood, the profitability of selling sculptures like his highly regarded black bear sculptures has brought him to repeatedly produce the products.

However, as woodchipper technology improves, Van der Windt's supply of smaller logs is diminishing.

Last year, an injury to his arm severely reduced the number of carvings that he could produce with his saws altogether. Putting down the saws temporarily, he picked up brushes and acrylic paint.

"It allows me to push my artistic ability. To push what I can do, what the wood can do," said Van der Windt. "It is a new direction, but also a safe start."

With an aging body and yearn to express his creative talents, Van der Windt wants to improve his abilities as a painter. For his new exploration into painting, he has chosen to paint animals that are local to the Haliburton County area, including moose, foxes, black bears, and birds.

Looking towards the future, he sees himself taking more ceramics classes, and trying his hand at selling pottery in his studio too.

With a burning love for woodcarving, Van der Windt is not putting down the saw for good. Focusing his efforts, he will create larger woodcarvings that challenge him as a carver and an artist.

With his gallery, the artist has provided selling space for other artists in his studio, which he plans to continue into the future.

"The great years are great for the bank account, but then I struggle creatively," he said. "The more people show up, the less time I have to carve, the more demand there is, and the more streamlined demand there is. It sometimes becomes all about the bears."

For his Carving Gallery, Van der Windt relies on word of mouth to spread interest in his carvings. While in this transitional phase towards bigger carvings and offering more of his own paintings, he hopes his clients are supportive of his explorations as a multimedia artist.

"As a people pleaser, this is going to be hard," he said."I want to spend my time carving and not worry about the economics and really see what I can do."

He hopes to learn the new medium of painting, tackling challenges of learning how brush strokes affect the painting, different techniques, and varying paint mediums.

The first of paintings that sold was a bear climbing on a birch branch.

"It went to a repeat customer," said Van der Windt. "They sent me a picture of it hanging on the wall and it was very nice. It also proves that they are sellable."

"This job is fun," he reflected. "With sculpture and art, it is a job you never really have to retire from but you can evolve."

The Carving Gallery is currently open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week. It is located at 8895 Highway 35 with a beautiful view of Moore Lake.

Hop, skip, and a jump

Mother Nature was on the school's side during the annual elementary school track meet, featuring multiple schools from across the county. With students training for the past few months, the athletes competed in a variety of races, ball throw events, and jumping competitions representing their respective schools. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Northern Lights
Performing Arts Pavilion

THOSE OTHER movies

Thursday, June 11
4:15 & 7:15

HOLY DAYS

STARRING
JACKI WEAVER, MIRIAM MARGOLYES,
JUDY DAVIS

ADMIT ONE
$10 CASH AT DOOR
OR BUY ONLINE AT WEBSITE

www.ThoseOtherMovies.com

Notice
(Applicant – Eikerman)

In the matter of the *Municipal Act* and in the matter of a proposed By-law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East to close, stop-up and convey certain portions of a Original Shore Road Allowance along the shore of **Salerno Lake,** more particularly hereinafter described.

Notice Is Hereby Given, pursuant to the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, and the Municipal Procedures, that the Township Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass at a virtual meeting on **Tuesday, June 23, 2026,** 9:30 a.m., a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance in Front of Lot 2, Concession 4, Glamorgan, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Parts 1 and 2 on Plan of Survey 19R-11238, made by **Bishop Geyer Surveying Inc., completed January 21, 2026** *(Part 2 being the flooded portion to be retained by the Municipality of Highlands East).*

The Plan of Survey 19R-11238 is available to you for inspection by you making an appointment at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above-described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus. If you wish to attend the virtual meeting, please call or e-mail the Municipal Clerk prior to the day of the public meeting so you can be provided with a link or phone number for the meeting. If you do not have the capability to attend a virtual meeting, please provide written comments to the Municipal Clerk prior to the public meeting.

Any person or his or her counsel, solicitor or agent who attends the virtual meeting shall be afforded an opportunity to make representations in respect of the within matter.

And Take Further Notice that if the public wishes to participate regarding the purchase of Shoreline Road Allowance please contact the Municipal Clerk.

Dated at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 2nd day of June, 2026.

Robyn Rogers, Municipal Clerk
Box 295, 2249 Loop Road,
WILBERFORCE, ON K0L 3C0
rrogers@highlandseast.ca
(705) 448-2981

PUBLIC NOTICE
Applicant(s): Gabel
Lot 6, Concession 3, Kushog Lake
Geographic Township of Stanhope

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands has declared part of the shore road allowance in front of Lot 6, Concession 3, Kushog Lake, in the geographic Township of Stanhope, in the Township of Algonquin Highlands, County of Haliburton, to be surplus.

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Municipal Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands proposes to enact a By-Law to stop-up, close and convey to the abutting property owner(s) that part of the shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 6, Concession 3, described as all and singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Geographic Township of Stanhope, in the County of Haliburton and being composed of the following:

FIRSTLY: THAT part of the shore road allowance in front of Lot 6, Concession 3, described as Part 1 on a Plan deposited in the Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Haliburton County as Plan 19R-11195.

The proposed By-Law will come before the said Council for consideration at its regular meeting at the Algonquin Highlands Municipal Office, 1123 North Shore Road, on the **18th day of June, 2026** and at that time, the Council will hear in person or by his/her counsel, solicitor or agent any person who claims that his/her land will be prejudicially affected and who applies to be heard. Any person who wishes to be heard by Council regarding this proposed closure must contact the Clerk to schedule a delegation with Council.

Dated: June 2, 2026

Sean O'Callaghan
Planner
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Rd.
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Tel: (705) 489-2379
Email: socallaghan@algonquinhighlands.ca

PUBLIC NOTICE
Applicant(s): Calcagno
Road Allowance between Lots 20 & 21,
Concession 12, 55019 Big Hawk Lake, East Shore
Geographic Township of Stanhope

WHEREAS the the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands has declared part of the original allowance for road between Lots 20 & 21, Concession 12, in the Geographic Township of Stanhope, in the Township of Algonquin Highlands, County of Haliburton, to be surplus.

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Municipal Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands proposes to enact a By-Law to stop-up, close and convey to the abutting property owner(s) that part of the original allowance for road between Lots 20 & 21, Concession 12, described as all and singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Geographic Township of Stanhope, in the County of Haliburton and being composed of the following:

FIRSTLY: THAT part of the original allowance for road between Lots 20 & 21, Concession 12, described as Part 1 on a Plan deposited in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of Haliburton County as Plan 19R-11105.

The proposed By-Law will come before the said Council for consideration at its regular meeting at the Algonquin Highlands Municipal Office, 1123 North Shore Road, on the **18th day of June, 2026** and at that time, the Council will hear in person or by his/her counsel, solicitor or agent any person who claims that his/her land will be prejudicially affected and who applies to be heard. Any person who wishes to be heard by Council regarding this proposed closure must contact the Clerk to schedule a delegation with Council.

Dated: June 2, 2026

Sean O'Callaghan
Planner
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Rd.
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Tel: (705) 489-2379
Email: socallaghan@algonquinhighlands.ca

Waste bylaw changed

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

Despite a new bylaw, there will not be changes to how waste is handled across Minden Hills.

The goal of the amended bylaw is to "eliminate outdated or redundant provisions and provide clearer direction to staff and users of waste management sites," said Chelsea Cosh, manager of waste facilities. "It will also strengthen the township's ability to enforce waste management requirements, ensure regulatory compliance, and support responsible waste disposal within the township."

This improved verbiage will hopefully increase flexibility to adapt to future waste management requirements.

Council spoke on some confusion with the new bylaw.

"I can bring my car tires, my truck tires, and my tractor tires, but I can't bring in my bicycle tires or my wheelchair tires. Why do they make this so complicated," asked Minden Hills Mayor Bob Carter.

"That would be a question for the province," said Cosh. "Just getting even tire pickup right now is a challenge."

Cosh says that the changes to the bylaw are to more closely match the provincial regulation in the hope that they will not have to update the bylaw frequently in the future.

Producer Responsibility Organizations are responsible for what can be accepted at landfills.

"It is really hard to get a pickup for a tire," said Councillor Tammy McKelvey.

Cosh says that a facility fire has reduced the capability of disposing of tires. If needed, Waste Management will stop accepting tires.

All tires can be accepted at the Scotch Line Landfill transfer station for a fee.

"One of the biggest challenges we face as a small rural township has been adapting to increasing provincial regulations and program requirements that do not always align with the realities of delivering waste management services in rural communities," said Cosh." Rising operational costs, limited processing infrastructure, longer hauling distances, and growing service expectations continue to place pressure on township resources while maintaining affordable and accessible services for residents."

PUBLIC NOTICE
Applicant: Poole
Lot 2, Concession 7, Kushog Lake
Geographic Township of Stanhope

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands has declared part of the original shore road allowance in front of Lot 2, Concession 7, Kushog Lake, in the geographic Township of Stanhope, in the Township of Algonquin Highlands, County of Haliburton, to be surplus.

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Municipal Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands proposes to enact a By-Law to stop-up, close and convey to the abutting property owner(s) that part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 2, Concession 7, described as all and singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Geographic Township of Stanhope, in the County of Haliburton and being composed of the following:

FIRSTLY: THAT part of the original shore road allowance in front of Lot 2, Concession 7, described as Part 2 on a Plan deposited in the Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Haliburton County as Plan 19R-11231.

The proposed By-Law will come before the said Council for consideration at its regular meeting at the Algonquin Highlands Municipal Office, 1123 North Shore Road, on the **18th day of June, 2026** and at that time, the Council will hear in person or by his/her counsel, solicitor or agent any person who claims that his/her land will be prejudicially affected and who applies to be heard. Any person who wishes to be heard by Council regarding this proposed closure must contact the Clerk to schedule a delegation with Council.

Dated: June 2, 2026

Sean O'Callaghan
Planner
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Rd.
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Tel: (705) 489-2379
Email: socallaghan@algonquinhighlands.ca

PUBLIC NOTICE
Applicant: Bowser-Macdonald & Macdonald
Lot 19, Concession 3, Beech Lake
Geographic Township of Stanhope

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands has declared part of the original shore road allowance in front of Lot 19, Concession 3, Beech Lake, in the geographic Township of Stanhope, in the Township of Algonquin Highlands, County of Haliburton, to be surplus.

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Municipal Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands proposes to enact a By-Law to stop-up, close and convey to the abutting property owner(s) that part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 19, Concession 3, described as all and singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Geographic Township of Stanhope, in the County of Haliburton and being composed of the following:

FIRSTLY: THAT part of the original shore road allowance in front of Lot 19, Concession 3, described as Part 1 on a Plan deposited in the Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Haliburton County as Plan 19R-11226.

The proposed By-Law will come before the said Council for consideration at its regular meeting at the Algonquin Highlands Municipal Office, 1123 North Shore Road, on the **18th day of June, 2026** and at that time, the Council will hear in person or by his/her counsel, solicitor or agent any person who claims that his/her land will be prejudicially affected and who applies to be heard. Any person who wishes to be heard by Council regarding this proposed closure must contact the Clerk to schedule a delegation with Council.

Dated: June 2, 2026

Sean O'Callaghan
Planner
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Rd.
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Tel: (705) 489-2379
Email: socallaghan@algonquinhighlands.ca

PUBLIC NOTICE
Applicant: Orleck
Lot 28, Concession 5, Maple Lake
Geographic Township of Stanhope

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands has declared part of the original shore road allowance in front of Lot 28, Concession 5, Maple Lake, in the geographic Township of Stanhope, in the Township of Algonquin Highlands, County of Haliburton, to be surplus.

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Municipal Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands proposes to enact a By-Law to stop-up, close and convey to the abutting property owner(s) that part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 28, Concession 5, described as all and singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Geographic Township of Stanhope, in the County of Haliburton and being composed of the following:

FIRSTLY: THAT part of the original shore road allowance in front of Lot 28, Concession 5, described as Part 1 on a Plan deposited in the Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Haliburton County as Plan 19R-11198.

The proposed By-Law will come before the said Council for consideration at its regular meeting at the Algonquin Highlands Municipal Office, 1123 North Shore Road, on the **18th day of June, 2026** and at that time, the Council will hear in person or by his/her counsel, solicitor or agent any person who claims that his/her land will be prejudicially affected and who applies to be heard. Any person who wishes to be heard by Council regarding this proposed closure must contact the Clerk to schedule a delegation with Council.

Dated: June 2, 2026

Sean O'Callaghan
Planner
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Rd.
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Tel: (705) 489-2379
Email: socallaghan@algonquinhighlands.ca

Multiple recommendations provided to better the planning process

from page 1

that staff are knowledgeable through a lot of our conversations with them," said Hazell.

The findings are not based on individual performance, but to improve the system as a whole for both staff and applicants.

Their first recommendation is to better leverage Minden Hill's Strategic Plan.

"The key rationale behind that is that as the township moves forward with their new strategic plan, there is an opportunity to clearly translate council's priorities into guiding principles for that service delivery," said Luoma.

Key activities for this recommendation is to establish high level goals to guide service delivery with detailed approaches determined by staff, and identify areas of focus to inform overall service direction.

The second recommendation was broken into two parts. The first part is to provide clarity between the roles of staff and council to better support clear and efficient decision making.

This is to be clear about the authority of council, update the bylaw to give more assignments to staff, establish reporting mechanisms to keep council informed, and to establish procedural framework to reflect operations and needs for approval.

Routine matters can be assigned to staff to be a better use of the township's time and resources.

The second part of this recommendation is to have a detailed structure, and streamline the township's role in the County of Haliburton's process for consent applications. This would involve clarifying the roles of applicants, staff, and council members, and documenting the roles, responsibilities, and reporting relationship between Minden Hills and the County.

The third recommendation is to develop and publish a consolidated Development Approvals Manual.

"To improve applicant's ability to understand the requirements, to navigate the complex and changing operating environment and communicate with staff directly, understand timelines, quality of submissions, and the overall confidence in the municipal decision making process," said Luoma.

Key activities to accomplish this is to gather information to create a manual, ensure that the manual aligns with current legislation bylaws and emerging procedural expectations.

The manual would provide crucial information consolidated into a single accessible source, improve transparency for applicants of the public, and to improve the communication of the operating environment.

The fourth recommendation is to strengthen the internal communication practices within the Development Approvals operating environment.

This recommendation addresses the internal conditions required for the planning and building functions to operate with consistent communication, shared expectations, and coordinated service delivery. This is to improve communication in the planning and building department to increase dependability, improve internal communications, and decrease confusion for applicants.

The fifth recommendation is to advance interim zoning bylaw updates to improve clarity and consistency. This process would involve identifying areas where recurring issues cause delays, rework, or reliance on relief mechanisms.

"As low hanging fruit, the easy thing is to incorporate all your zoning bylaw amendments into one consolidated zoning bylaw document," said Luoma.

Currently, the planning field in Ontario is in a state of flux due to things like Bill 98 and upper tier policy changes.

The sixth recommendation is to clarify internal roles and supervisory accountability across Planning, Building, and Bylaw departments.

"This is really good at getting consistency," said Luoma.

Of note, when someone leaves the department, duties will still be determined.

The first part of the seventh recommendation is to review the role of planning staff in building permit review and establish where input is required, optional, or not needed. The role of planning staff in initial site plan review is essential to avoid duplicating efforts and ensure service delivery. This process can also be modernized using CloudPermit workflow configuration.

The other part of their seventh recommendation is to review Planning's duties with cross departmental tasks and determine what should only be completed by MH's planners. Further investigation of the impact on other departments is needed as duties shift away from Planning.

Their eighth recommendation is to develop an application resource to clarify who reviews what, when, and for what purpose.

The ninth recommendation is to finalize standard operating procedures and workflow documentation.

The tenth recommendation is to standardize internal service standards and develop support for applicants' approvals and communication.

The eleventh recommendation is to create a roadmap to integrate data and technology to modernize service delivery and introduce automation.

The twelfth recommendation is to improve applicant-facing tools, resources, and information to streamline the process for applicants.

Their final recommendation is to conduct an extensive review of development application fees and cost recovery.

"This recommendation is not simply about increasing fees, it is more about supporting more informed operational and financial planning while ensuring fee structures align appropriately with service delivery requirements over time," said Hazell.

Councillor Tammy McKelvey expressed the importance of streamlining how applicants can access applications. Currently, their website directs people to complicated policy language.

"This review is one of the most important things that we have been presented with," said McKelvey. "We need to make sure this moves forward and makes improvements."

Mayor Bob Carter asked about the experience of other organizations that underwent this improvement process. With applicants piling up, he has concerns about implementing big changes.

Hazell said that the recommendations were made alongside Minden Hills staff.

"There are not always easy solutions to this transformational change that we are putting forward to you," said Hazell.

She said that having regular check-ins throughout the process will allow them to stay on track.

"Incremental change is what you are gearing towards," said Luoma.

www.mindenhills.ca
In Case of Emergency Dial 911 / After-Hours
Municipal Emergency Dial 1-866-856-3247

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS
IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- The 2026 Members' Exhibition of the Arts Council ~ Haliburton Highlands will be on display until July 18. The exhibition is presented in partnership with the Art in Public Spaces Committee of the Arts Council ~ Haliburton Highlands, the Agnes Jamieson Gallery, and Fielding Estate Winery.
- Museum of Her, a new exhibition by artist Michèle Karch-Ackerman will be on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery (Kirkwood Room) until July 18. The Artist Talk is scheduled for Saturday, June 6 at 1:00 PM.
- Miijim: Traditional Foods of the Anishinaabeg, on loan from The MUSE: Lake of the Woods Museum in Kenora, was created in partnership between MUSE, Iskatewizaagegan No. 39 Independent First Nation, and the Natural Resources Institute of the University of Manitoba. The exhibit focuses on miijim - food - and its importance to the body, mind, soul, and heart of the Anishinaabeg. The exhibit will be on display at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre until August 29.
- Join us on Friday, June 5 for PA Day fun! Tour the Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village, and Nature's Place, and stay for a free movie screening of Finding Nemo (2003) at 1:00 PM. Light refreshments will be provided.
- The Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village, and Nature's Place is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm! Stop by Fridays at 11 am for the Toddler Discover Zone, and Saturdays at 11 am for Hands-On activities!

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

June 11 – Regular Council Meeting
June 18 – Special Council Meeting
June 25 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

REGISTER TO VOTE!

Confirm you are on the Voters List! The next municipal election will be held on Monday, October 26, 2026. To register and/or confirm your information visit the Elections Ontario Register Voter Portal www.registertovoteon.ca

PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Looking to apply for an Entrance or Wide Load Permit? Visit our website www.mindenhills.ca/entranceandwideloadpermits/ for more information.

PUBLIC NOTICE: CHANGES TO THE TOWNSHIP'S FEES AND CHARGES BY-LAW

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a Public Meeting on Thursday, June 25, 2026, during its Regular Council Meeting regarding Proposed Changes of the Township's Fees and Charges By-law to:

- Schedule A - Building
- Schedule I – Environmental Water, Sewer and Landfill

The meeting will commence at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers located at 7 Milne Street, Minden ON. Details of proposed changes will be made available in the coming week.

For more information, please visit our website.

Zach Drinkwalter
Director of Finance
705-286-1260 ext 504
admin@mindenhills.ca

NOTICE OF A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING COMMUNITY-WIDE AFFORDABILITY AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE STUDY

Take Notice there will be a Special Meeting of Council held Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 1:00 PM in the Council Chambers, located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, ON.
The Special Council Meeting is being held for a facilitated session with the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) to gather Council's input for the Community-wide Affordability and Governance Structure Study."

The Special Council meeting will be conducted via web conference and in-person. Please visit our website for further details.

7 Milne Street, PO Box 359, Minden, ON K0M 2K0
705-286-1260 Toll Free: 1-844-277-1260 Fax 705-286-4917
Township.Minden.Hills Minden Hills@twpmindenhills @Township_MindenHills

Bookapalooza brings in bestselling authors

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

Oh, the places you'll go with a book in your hands.

The fervour around literature continues to grow across Haliburton County; a good reason as we are surrounded by outstanding authors that live and play across our county.

It was not long ago there was no outlet for writers in Haliburton. The idea of Bookapalooza was started by a writer's group that approached the Arts Council of the Haliburton Highlands.

Marie Gage, a committee member of Bookapalooza, was one of its founding members.

Their group started the Literary Arts Round Table with the idea of bringing a bestselling author coming from that same meeting.

"In the first few years, it was called The Big Book Club," said Gage. "We hoped all the book clubs in the area would attend and enjoy the discussion."

After its successful initial years, the group decided to grow the event by providing a space to support local and regional authors and getting producers of reading related materials to become involved.

Simply put, Bookapalooza is a festival for book lovers of all ages, with any interest.

This year's Bookapalooza will be taking place at the Minden Hills Community Centre on June 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The organizers are excited to welcome two special guests that will be presenting this year. The authors include Bianca Marais, author of the bestselling *Witches of Moonshyne Manor* and Marissa Stapley, author of Reese's Book Club pick *Lucky* and *Christmas at the Ranch.*

Written under her pen name Julia McKay, *Christmas at the Ranch* is a love letter to Haliburton County, says Stapley. While not using the exact names, it was directly inspired by her experiences and places in Haliburton County.

Stapley's longtime dream was to own a cottage.

"When *Lucky* became a Reese's Book Club Pick, I figured that we could get our cottage," she said.

Fortunately for our community, Stapley chose Haliburton as her number one choice.

"It is beautiful here all year round," said Stapley. "There is a really interesting sense of community that I had to be a part of."

In the years since she has cottaged in Haliburton, Stapley says that she has noticed a huge commitment to the arts across the county.

Wanting to give back to the community that has welcomed her in with open arms, she quickly agreed to present at this year's Bookapalooza event.

Stapley's novel *Lucky* is now being made into a series by Apple TV, with Anya Taylor-Joy playing the titular character. As a producer with the show, Stapley says that one of her favourite aspects of watching it is seeing her characters come to life through the actors, especially hearing Timothy Olyphant playing Lucky's father.

While it is different from the book itself, Stapley says that she has seen every episode and cannot wait for it to be released. With this success of *Lucky*, Stapley confirms that its sequel titled *No Such Thing as Lucky* will be released in the summer of 2027.

Experiencing the publishing industry first hand, Stapley says that the diversity of fiction in Canada is always expanding. An event like Bookapalooza is a unique opportunity for authors to get their works read and to expand their reach to other passionate book readers.

The renowned author Bianca Marais will be visiting Haliburton for the first time. A close friend of Stapley and Blue Heron Books' Shelley MacBeth, she jumped at the opportunity to speak at Bookapalooza.

She says that Haliburton's vibrant arts scene and beautiful landscapes are what she is most excited to experience.

Her bestseller, *A Most Puzzling Murder* was inspired by social meda.

"I was getting very frustrated with how we're losing critical thinking skills because everything on social media has to be condensed into a meme or a seconds-long reel in order to get engagement," said Marais. "I decided that I wanted to write a book that would not just entertain, but that would demand you engage with it as it challenged you."

"As a child, I used to want to climb into my books and live inside them, becoming the main character and going on grand adventures. This is my attempt at that kind of immersive experience for adults," she said.

Working through philosophical thought experiments in the form of a Choose-Your-Own-Adventure book, the main character will even email you clues.

She says that one benefit Haliburton has over larger areas is that people are intimately engaged and thriving as smaller literary groups.

With organizations like the Arts Council to make events for everybody, there is so much work being done to bring the spotlight to local authors and creators.

At this year's Bookapalooza, local Canadian authors are highlighted in the spotlight for you to bring their works onto your shelves.

There will be new author exhibitors, a dinner event with Stapley and Marais, and something for everyone to find at Haliburton's largest literary event of the year.

Bookapalooza would like to thank the generous support of the volunteers, sponsorship of Parker Pad and Printing, and Northern Forest Publishing's gracious contribution of a refreshment booth.

The Bookapalooza event is entirely free to attend. There are two ticketed events including the author's interview and Q&A as well as a dinner held with the authors at the Grill on the Gull in the evening.

Tickets can be purchased online through www.haliburtonarts.on.ca/bookapalooza. They are selling fast and have a limited amount of space.

Going green

Carolyn Langdon, of the Haliburton County Master Gardeners, planted a Mountain Ash between the memorial stones at the Green Burial Section at the St. Stephen's Cemetery during its official opening held on Sunday, May 31. The event included speeches from Terry Moore, founder of the Green Burial Society and Liz Danielsen, Mayor of Algonquin Highlands. A blessing and song was led by local End-of-life Doula Adriane Weller. /THOMAS SMITH staff

Algonquin Highlands Mayor Liz Danielsen speaks to the crowd at the opening of the Green Burial section at St. Stephen's Cemetery held on Sunday May 31. /THOMAS SMITH staff

Gals on the Green is entering their third year, and continues to welcome women of all abilities and skillsets to join in on the fun. /photos submitted

The Gals are back in town

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Summer comes with many things: longer days, shorter nights, warm temperatures and sunny skies.

And of course, Gals on the Green.

Now in its third year, the women-run golf organization is returning to Pinestone for a full summer of fun, friendship, and festivities. "It's a social league," said Nicole Baumgartner Spooner, one of the organizers of the season. "It's about meeting new people, having some fun."

The league is the brainchild of Baumgartner Spooner and her friend, Kayla Gardiner. The duo loved golf, but found that there wasn't a community of like-minded women who were able to participate together.

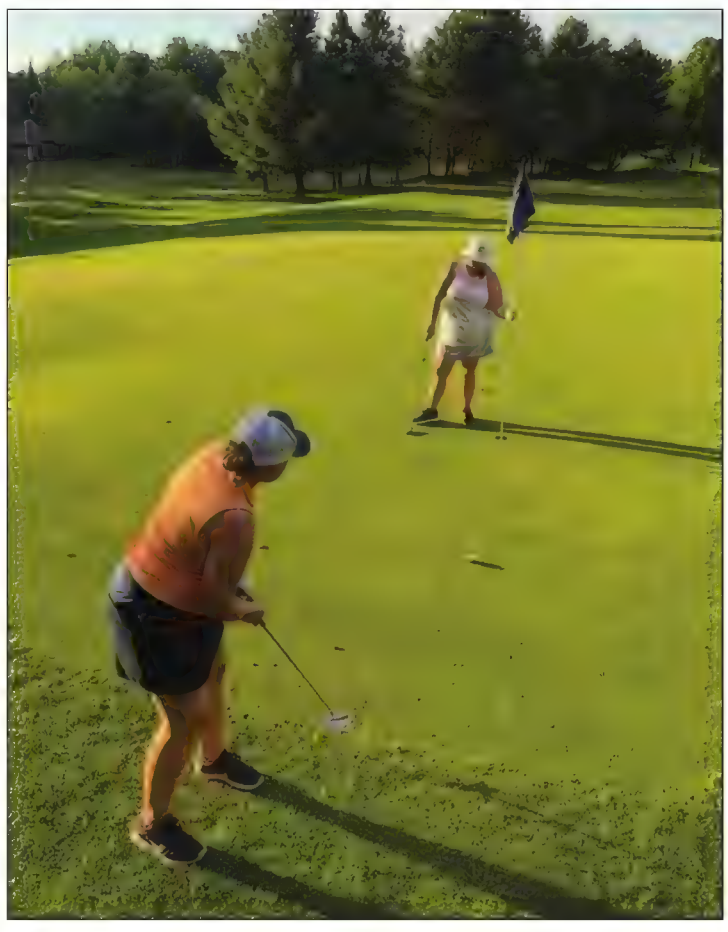
After some trial and error for timing that worked for the majority of those interested, the two landed on Wednesday evenings for the 2026 season. "There's a lot of new faces," said Baumgartner Spooner. "It's a really great opportunity to not feel so isolated."

Between jobs, kids, and life responsibilities, the organizers noted the importance of women getting together to connect. "We're not here to judge each other," said Baumgartner Spooner. "And we're not judging ourselves. We're just women lifting up women."

Gals on the Green meets Wednesday evenings at Pinestone Resort and Conference Centre. All are welcome, and Baumgartner Spooner encourages those interested to follow their Gals on the Green social media pages to stay updated on any changes or registrations.

There are a number of sponsored evenings where dress-up and fun is highly encouraged.

"I've seen people come out who have never golfed before," said Baumgartner Spooner, "but it's become a staple in their life. It's just so nice to get people out."



Gals on the Green are meeting weekly on Wednesday evenings throughout the course of the summer. All ages and experience levels are welcome. /submitted

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT
TO ZONING BY-LAW 2005-120 OF THE
MUNICIPALITY OF DYSART ET AL

- **DATE:** **Tuesday, June 23, 2026**
- **TIME:** **9:05 AM**
- **LOCATION:** **Take notice that the public meeting for zoning by-law amendment will take place in Council Chambers in the Municipal Office 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton, Ontario and in electronic format using Zoom. The meeting will be live streamed to YouTube.**

Application:

Municipality of Dysart et al – File No. D14-ZB-2025-006

Purpose and Effect: The proposed amendment will amend the provisions for Additional Dwelling Units, to permit Additional Dwelling Units to be used as Short Term Rentals.

Location: The proposed Official Plan and Zoning By-law amendments will apply to all applicable lands within the Municipality of Dysart et al.

For more information about electronic meetings and public participation in an electronic meeting, contact the Planning Technician at twilson@dysartetal.ca.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MATTER INCLUDING INFORMATION ABOUT APPEAL RIGHTS: Contact the Planning and Land Information Department by appointment during regular office hours (8:30 A.M-4:30 P.M, Monday to Friday), or by contacting Jeff Iles, Director of Planning and Land Information at jiles@dysartetal.ca.

Dated at the Township of Dysart, this 2nd day of June 2026

Jeff Iles
Director of Planning and Land Information
Municipality of Dysart et al
135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0
Phone: 705-457-1740 ext. 625

Transport Canada / Transports Canada

Canadian Navigable Waters Act

The Municipality of Dysart et al ..... hereby gives notice that an
(Owner – Individual or company name)

application has been made to the Navigable Waters Registry, pursuant to the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* for approval of the work described herein and its site and plans.

Pursuant to paragraph 10(1)(b) of the said Act,
The Municipality of Dysart et al ..... has deposited with the Minister of Transport,
(Owner – Individual or company name)

on the on-line Common Project Search Registry (http://cps.canada.ca/) under the registry number 14931, a description of the following work, its site and plans:

- The project includes removal of existing truss bridge and partial removal of abutments;
- Construction of new abutments behind the existing;
- Launching of new modular bridge;
- Reconstruction of approach embankments, including some retaining structures;
- Installation of new code compliant barrier system and guide rail; and
- Site cleanup and restoration.

in, on, over, under, through or

across..... the Drag River .....
(name of the river, the lake or other navigable water)

at ..... Head Lake Rotary Park in Haliburton .....
(name of place where work is to be located)

in front of lot number ..... Lot 17, Concession 8, County of Haliburton .....
(or at the foot of such a street, etc.) (see note below)

Comments regarding the effect of this work on marine navigation can be sent through the Common Project Search site mentioned above under the Comment section (search by the above referenced number) or if you do not have access to the internet, by sending your comments directly to:

Director of Public Works
Municipality of Dysart et al
135 Maple Avenue PO Box 389, Haliburton Ontario, Canada K0M 1S0

Posted at..... Haliburton, Ontario .....this ...12..... day of ..... May ....., 20 ...26...
(City, Province) (day) (Month) (year)
Municipality of Dysart et al .....
(full name of owner)

Transport Canada (TC) will not make your comments on a project available to the public on the online public registry. However, any information related to a work is considered as unclassified public record and could be accessible upon legal request. As such, the information and records provided should not contain confidential or sensitive information. If you want to provide confidential or sensitive information that you think should not be made public, please contact TC before submitting it.

NOTE: The subject site (Head Lake Pedestrian Bridge) is located at 45°2'48.8"N 78°30'44.5"W (45.046897, -78.512351).

Canada

Minden's Pet-Tyme Animal Krackers expands to Norland

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

Susan Andresen, owner of Pet-Tyme Animal Krackers in Minden, opened her new Country Store in Norland on Saturday, May 30. The store is located at 7276 Highway 35 between Coboconk and Norland. Stop by for any pet food, horse tack, and livestock needs. /THOMAS SMITH staff

For Minden's Pet-Tyme Animal Krackers' owner Susan Andresen, working for her own stores means she never has to work a day in her life.

What started as her solo project in Minden has developed into a full family affair.

"My previous job, I found out it was selling so I thought I had to do something," said Andresen.

For Andresen, the opportunity of a lifetime arose when the former owner of the pet food store in Minden wanted to sell it. After taking ownership, Andresen worked to improve its offerings of both pet and livestock feed.

"We pride ourselves on what you need, we will get it for you," said Andresen. Over time, more and more people requested food for their farm animals and orders of day-old chickens.

In 2021, Andresen was thrown a curveball with a breast cancer diagnosis.

"We couldn't stop what we were doing," she said. "The whole family had to rally while I ran back and forth to treatments for a year."

Looking back at that turbulent time, Andresen says that there is a reason for everything. Coming through her treatments with a clean bill of health, she says that it proves how resilient they are as a family.

Known for her kindness, expertise, and knowledge of animal feeds, Pet-Tyme Animal Krackers continues to grow its customer base.

"Everybody has been really supportive and gave us confidence to grow," said Andresen. "We have always been looking for our own real estate."

With their first location being located besides the in-development Centex gas station, Andresen says that renting the store front has not been without its challenges.

With the closure of the former Jug City, the shop owner says that there was a noticeable disruption to her business.

With loyal customers and the quality of their service, she says that people will always find a way to visit their store, even when their front door entrance is blocked.

Their new Country Store location, housed at the former North Country Dock retail space, was in rough shape, but the potential of the land and buildings spoke to her family.

"That would be about three months ago, we actually jumped on this and said let's do this for this year," she said.

The new location is bigger, allowing her to expand their selection while also providing visibility to their products.

Given soaring gas prices, the decision to open another store was easy, as many clients have told her they don't want to travel far to purchase the necessary pet food.

Opening a location in Norland reduces the need for people to drive from Kawartha Lakes to Minden, and vice versa.

For now, the family plans on keeping both storefronts open. Her son, Matthew, has recently completed his degree in History. Her daughter, Erika, has also completed her schooling as an occupational therapist. Both of her children have expressed an interest in assisting with the stores.

"He has expressed interest in growing the business with us," she said. "I love it. We are a really close family so it's nice to be able to share everything. Succession planning should be simple, because we know that they are interested."

While living on her own farm, Andresen says that she utilizes the tips and tricks for animal husbandry that she has picked up over the years. Representatives from pet and livestock feed companies regularly provide her with updated nutritional information, keeping her up to date with the latest trends in gut health and nutrition.

Riding since the age of 12, she says that she loves being around horses.

"I just love how they look. They just calm your soul," she said. "It always felt natural to use that knowledge to sell things as well."

One addition to the Country Store is an increased offering in horse tack and apparel.

She hopes to foster a close relationship with the Victoria Pony Club, a local non-profit that encourages connections over all things equestrian for those under the age of 21.

"I want it to be considered a hub where people can come and sit on the couch," said Andresen. "We would like to host Pony Club nights. A place where everybody feels that they want to go to that store, grab a pop from the fridge, listen to some horse stories or watch the Royal on the TV."

Despite being a self described shy person, Andresen is most excited for the connections that she will make with new customers in Norland.

Whether it is customers buying feed for their horse, or them bringing in their dog for a treat, she cannot wait to expand the new store's potential.

"We love what we do, we love animals and we get to stick with our family," said Andresen. "It makes a good life."

Red Trillium by Tammy Nash

Heron by Jill Moulton

An example of spalting, which is when fungi leave zone lines inside wood when they are competing for resources. Zone lines can come in various colours from shades of black and brown to red to even blue. /IVY KATZ staff

Look midway up in this tree trunk to see a dark clump of chaga, the popular mushroom which boasts some of the highest concentrations of antioxidants found in any food.

Haliburton Forest's secrets for sustainability

Part Two: Coping with invasive species and diseases

IVY KATZ
Journalist

Last week, in part one, we examined the various techniques in which Haliburton Forest continues to perfect its world-class and nationally recognized sustainability methods for harvesting wood and growing healthy, resilient forests. This week, we will look at a number of common tree-conditions and diseases affecting our native species here in the Haliburton Highlands.

Adam Gorgolewski holds his PhD in forestry, is a registered Forester, and is the current research coordinator at Haliburton Forest. He took me on a guided tour of their forest where he filled me in on diseases affecting our native trees.

Invasive species have reached as far north as Gooderham

First we discussed the invasive emerald ash borer. Gorgolewski tells me it has been "killing off" the ash trees in most of Ontario for approximately the last 15 to 20 years. According to Gorgolewski, "the emerald ash borer has basically decimated all the ash trees in southern Ontario," spreading from the greater Toronto area to past Barrie to within 50 kilometres of the county.

The emerald ash borer is a type of wood-boring beetle, highly invasive and destructive here in North America, outside of its native habitat of north-eastern Asia. In its native habitat, the beetle does not cause significant harm to the trees. As the name suggests, the beetle bores underneath the bark of ash trees, where "it chews its way around the cambial layer and girdles the tree," explains Gorgolewski. The females lay eggs on bark crevices and the larvae feed underneath the bark.

Gorgolewski notes "we are lucky up here," because Haliburton Forest hasn't seen any ash borers yet. However, the expert anticipates our luck will run out; there are reports the critter has made it as far as Gooderham. Ottawa has also been infected by the invasive species. In an effort to control the spread, foresters have had to cut down many dead or dying Ash trees, says Gorgolewski.

What to look for in the forest

Look for an S-shaped pattern on trees where the bark has fallen away or been removed. This distinct pattern are the lines formed by the larva, which can grow up to 2-5 centimetres in length. The adult beetle is challenging to spot due to its small size which ranges from 8.5mm to 14mm long. Part of the family of metallic wood-boring, or 'jewelled' beetles, the emerald ash borer has an iridescent metallic green back and an emerald green underside for which it is named.

According to the Government of Canada, the emerald ash borer has already killed millions of trees in North America. Research shows the adult beetles can travel as far as 10 kilometres, but most commonly, the invasive species spread through the movement of firewood or other infested ash wood products. Conservationists and the government indicate not to move ash firewood out of designated areas, and if an ash tree dies, replace it with a different, but recommended, species of native tree.

The biggest problem in Haliburton Forest

Next we discussed Beech Bark Disease (BBD), which unlike the ash borer, has affected the native beech trees in Haliburton Forest. Gorgolewski shows me the telltale, fine white lines running up the bark of a Beech tree. He explains that the white lines are actually the excrement of the microscopic insect known as beech scale insect. "The insect is too small to see but you know it's here from these white, powdery lines," notes the expert. The insect bores tiny holes in the bark of the tree, thereby allowing a fungus to get underneath and kill the tree.

The disease is known as an insect-fungus complex. Once the fungus progresses, pockmarks begin to form, ultimately becoming large blister-type formations that are hard not to notice. In late summer and fall there may be small, red "fruiting" bodies present on infected trees.

"BBD is currently the biggest problem Haliburton Forest is dealing with," explains Gorgolewski, "by the time we see the pockmarks, the tree will be dead in about five to 10 years." BBD significantly alters the dynamics and stand-structure within a forest, reducing biodiversity and negatively impacting wildlife.

A diverse forest is stronger than a monoculture

One of the ways Gorgolweski and Haliburton Forest are trying to combat BBD is by introducing other native but diverse species in an effort to avoid beech thickets, which is a thicket of many young beech trees.

Thickets can occur quickly, as trees infected with BBD will shoot up new sprouts from their roots as they are dying. Beech thickets do not produce the right conditions for trees to mature and add to the forest canopy or produce beech nuts, which are essential food for bears and other wildlife.

A diverse forest is stronger than a monoculture. Haliburton Forest is identifying beech trees which are naturally more resilient to BBD, while actively working to control infected beech trees and encourage the growth of other native species to produce a resilient forest which cannot be decimated by one disease.

Decomposing trees add to biodiversity

As trees get older, they develop more defects, such as seams and cankers. Maple trees live up to 300 years before they die. Gorgolewski tells me: "a tree can have more biodiversity once it is dead," providing conditions for woodpecker feeding and shelter for small animals, including salamanders. Fungus feeds on decomposing trees while decomposing wood nourishes the soil over time for new growth. Everything is a cycle.

A large bulge or swelling in a trunk is known as a canker; this is a tree's response to a fungus as it tries to section it off. Sometimes referred to as "cobra cankers" due to the shape, cankers usually kill a tree, but it takes 10 to 20 years, explains Gorgolewski.

Spalting is another indicator of fungus activity. It is a sort of chemical-reaction when two different types of fungus collide, leaving coloured lines ranging from black to browns, to red, and even blue. The vivid lines can be seen on the inside of fallen tree trunks, sometimes in firewood.

Reassurance

Die-back in the canopy can be "reassuring" in the sense that it can create the right conditions for more trees to grow, says Gorgolewski, although it does take 50 to 100 years, but, "a forest will come back."

Visit Haliburton Forest in person and check out their many activities and group accommodations online, including mountain biking, the fishing club, skeet shooting, the sky-high canopy tour or a guided tour with Adam Gorgolewski.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcement: Wilberforce FUNraisers Bursary 2026

The Wilberforce FUNraisers Group (WFG) is a local non-profit community group dedicated to the betterment of the Wilberforce Community, with an emphasis on opportunities for youth. Our goal is to see the youth of the community reach their full potential, and have access to whatever further training they need to accomplish that.

This will be the sixth year that the WFG will award a bursary to one or more local students.

The deadline for Applications for the $600 WFG Bursary is July 17st this year.

Criteria: Qualified local students are those who are graduating from high school this spring and continuing in post secondary studies (whether it be university, college, or an apprenticeship program). Additionally, candidates must be from the Wilberforce area and/or have attended the Wilberforce Elementary school; provide proof of enrollment in their post secondary program; and be willing to provide a progress report to the WFG at the end of their first post secondary year.

Students interested in applying for the Bursary should contact Joan Barton at: joan4196@gmail.com or 705-448-3074.

We would like to thank Wilberforce and the surrounding community for their generous support of WFG over the years.

FOR SALE

For Sale. Heintzman Piano, snowblower, power lift recliner chair. Contact **705-306-9204 or 705-286-5096**

Several items for sale. Must go. Tools, twin beds, dressers, lots of dishes and glasses, and more. Located in Haliburton. Call **705-341-8291** or **705-854-1326**

YARD/GARAGE SALES

Lawn Sale. Tools, china, etc. Saturday, June 6th and Sunday, June 7, 10am - 4pm. **1004 First Lane, Hunter Creek Estates**, Minden

WANTED

Wanted: scrap cars and trucks. Cash paid. Please call **705-286-3758** or cell **249-332-1212**

FOR RENT

Fitness Room for rent: Blue Sky Yoga Studio at Haliburton Chiropractic. Bright & Open in Downtown Haliburton with Private entrance and washroom. **Health Professional/ Therapist treatment room for rent** at Haliburton Chiropractic. Furnished with massage table, desk & chair. Available by the hour, half or full day. **Contact: 705 457 3500. info@haliburtonchiropractic.com**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

70th Wedding Anniversary Announcement
Allan & Ellenor Bagg

June 9, 1956

Together with their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, Allan & Ellenor are overjoyed to celebrate 70 years of love, a Platinum Wedding Anniversary.

Friends and family are welcome to drop by anytime between 1 - 4pm, Sunday, June 7, The Gardens of Haliburton, 1 Sunnyside Street, Haliburton.

Best Wishes only.

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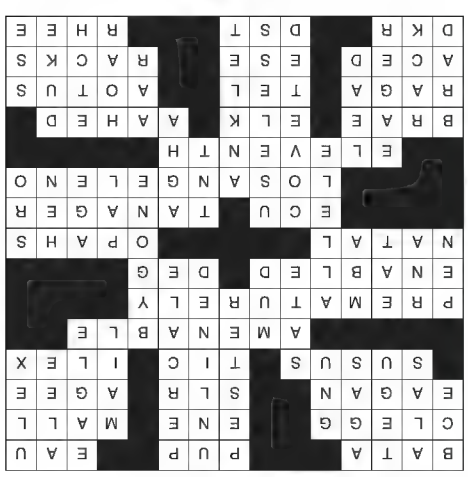

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OBITUARIES

David Milner Bright

Rest in Peace and Music

Our sweet David passed away suddenly on May 26th, 2026. To say our family is devastated doesn't even begin to describe the shock of this event. Literally hundreds of you have reached out with an outpouring of love that we are so grateful for – each message so meaningful, telling us heartfelt and hilarious stories about Dave.

His wife of 54 years, Julia, his three children and their partners: Graham & Jess, Adam & Crystal, and Lauren & Matt, five grandchildren, Cohen, Jack, Sophia, Noelle & Nicholas, and his sister, Sue, have shared every summer, and every season at the Lake with Julia & Dave. A big, noisy, and endlessly hungry group, Julia has a Master's degree in creating enormous amounts of delicious food and a welcoming home. Skiing in summer and winter, campfires, family hikes, swimming, picnics at Sand Bay, and building, building, building. Always projects. Just two weeks ago, Dave was toiling over a well-seasoned aluminum boat, getting it ready for Nick to blast around the bay this summer at 'rocket' speed.

Born in London on June 8, 1947, to Helen and Bill Bright. The two were married "late" for their time, and David was a gift I'm sure they dreamed about for years. He was a beautiful child, kind, sensitive, with an artist's heart and soul.

In 1961, the Brights bought a lakefront property on Haliburton Lake, and thus began the love affair that continued throughout his life. A handful of families also built cottages on this pristine lake around that time (everyone will quibble that they were on the Lake first, so no dates included here!), and they became lifelong friends.

Music became his passion, and in grade 9 at Malvern, Dave became a superstar as the band's drummer, and his picture landed on the front page of the Toronto Star. At 19, the then-shy, dark-haired boy met the love of his life. Julia Feagan. One of seven kids and a family in West Bay (ok, yes, the Feagans were there first!), and the romance flourished. Dave became a DJ and for decades loaded a mountain of equipment and records into a trailer and played at the HLCA Regattas, Sir Sam's, weddings & parties for more than 60 years. His most recent gig was three weeks ago.

As the years passed and the older generation began to leave us, Dave and Julia's love of Haliburton led them to invest and grow their lives in the north. They moved and created their new life together, looking out at their favourite place in the world.

Dave was one of the most knowledgeable people in the country on boiler technology, and he continued his professional career until last fall. He was very well respected among his work family and forged friendships that lasted a lifetime.

Dave was the Admiral of Haliburton Lake. He cared for the health of the lake and its wildlife, taking water samples and providing shelter for its creatures. His time and efforts with shoreline planning were invaluable. He supported the community of Haliburton through many charitable donations, most notably for SIRCH.

Dave was a giant of a man who leaves a legacy of music, laughter, ridiculous stories, and love.

Sail on, Dave. Sail on.

Celebration of Life

A Celebration of David's life will take place at a later date; details to be announced. As an expression of sympathy, donations in David's name can be made to SIRCH Community Services. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. #118 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209.

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OBITUARIES

Reginald Howard George Poole

1954 ~ 2026
Resident of Haliburton

Reg passed away surrounded by his family on May 27, 2026. Predeceased by his parents and his brother Randy.

Reg was loved and will always be missed by his partner in life of 49 years, Rosemary Lewis, his son Cory (Meg), grandson Clark, sisters Chris (Norm) and Kelly (Ron), nieces Jenny (Dave) and Kimberly (Patrick), nephew Jason (Christina), and 3 great nephews Tom, Nicholas, and Walker.

Reg grew up on Haliburton Lake, and we will always remember him skiing in South Bay with a big smile on his face and making it look so effortless. He had a good heart and a gentle soul.

His family would like to recognize Dr. Gilmour and the staff in the Haliburton ER, including the Paramedics, for taking good care of Reg during his increasingly harder struggles with COPD over the last few years. Thank you for being so kind to us as we said our goodbyes to him.

Private Funeral Arrangements

A private Celebration of Reg's life will be held by the family at a later date. As an expression of sympathy, donations in Reg's memory can be made to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME,** 13523 Hwy. #118 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209.

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Murray Fearrey

(Resident of Haliburton, Ontario)

It is with deep sadness that the family announces the passing of Murray Fearrey, beloved partner, father, grandfather, and servant of the community he called home for his entire 84 years. Murray passed away peacefully on May 28, 2026, at Haliburton Highlands Hospital, still proudly serving as Mayor of Dysart et al.

Murray is survived by his beloved partner of 35 years, Donna; his loving daughter, Brenda, and her partner Derek; Donna's children, who loved him as a father: Paul (Susan), Leigh (Paul), Heather (Chad); and his grandchildren, Matthew, Olivia, and Luka, who loved "Gramps" dearly.

Murray spent his entire life in Haliburton, born here, raised here, and devoted here. Over nearly six decades of public service as Reeve, 12-term County Warden, and long-serving Mayor of Dysart et al, he shaped nearly every corner of the community he loved: Head Lake Park, the arena, the curling club, the library, the hospital, and the long-term care home. He never sought recognition for any of it. He simply believed it was the right thing to do.

In his own words, spoken to The Highlander just months ago: "I've had a good run." He did. And Haliburton is better for every moment of it.

A website has been created to share highlights of Murray's story - https://murrayfearrey.manus.space/

Funeral Arrangements

Much like he never sought recognition, Murray's wishes were for a humble and no-fuss remembrance. The family wishes to honour that. A Visitation for the Community will be held on Friday, June 5, 2026, from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME,** 13523 Hwy. #118 Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation - Emergency Services & Acute Care would be appreciated by the family.

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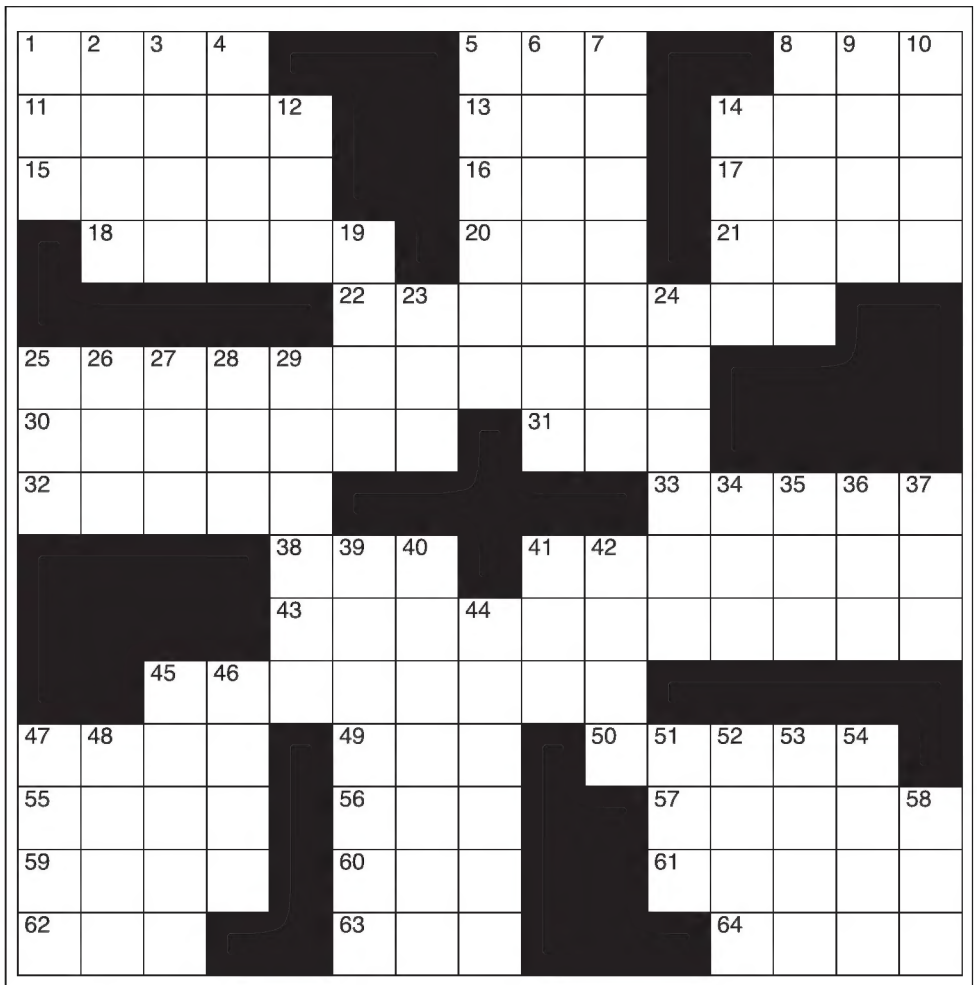
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!



CLUES ACROSS
1. Egyptian bull-god
5. A young canine
8. Cologne
11. Fictional British P.I.
13. Midway between northeast and east
14. A place to shop
15. Minneapolis suburb
16. Single lens reflex
17. NY Mets great Tommie
18. Informal loan clubs
20. Habitual twitching
21. Holm oak
22. Willing to consent or submit
25. In an early way
30. Made possible
31. Language in Ghana
32. Relating to one's birth
33. Deep-bodied fishes
38. Defunct European currency
41. Small American songbird
43. One from L.A.
45. After tenth
47. Hillside
49. Red deer
50. Partner to "oohed"
55. Indian musical pattern
56. Israeli city __ Aviv
57. Golden peas plant
59. Breezed through
60. Midway between east and southeast
61. Frameworks
62. Danish krone
63. Fall back
64. Influential Korean leader

CLUES DOWN
1. Bridge building degree
2. Expression of sorrow or pity
3. Large, stocky lizard
4. Turkish leader title
5. Nag
6. Blank
7. Closely woven cotton fabric
8. A nice shot in golf
9. Away from wind
10. Evergreen shrub genus
12. Large African antelope
14. Something you receive
19. Satisfy
23. Wet dirt
24. No longer here
25. Writing utensil
26. Ribonucleic acid
27. Consume food
28. Licensed for Wall Street
29. Alternative forms of a gene
34. Buddy
35. We all do it
36. Chicken
37. No seats available
39. Yearned to possess
40. Ineffectual
41. Explosive
42. Turkish title
44. Worn near the foot
45. Impatient
46. Set an example for others
47. Actor Pitt
48. Instrument of torture
51. Swiss river
52. Grayish white
53. A way to print
54. Storied college hoops program
58. Midway between south and southeast

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Split vote on right leads to O'Reilly victory

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

It was a déjà vu all over again.

As the polls came in on Monday night, it was hard to tell if the calendar said June 2, 1997 or October 25, 1993.

In the three and a half years since the last election, it seems voters in the riding of Victoria-Haliburton had not changed their minds about which parties they preferred.

Once again, repeating the same voting patterns as 1993, they elected Liberal John O'Reilly to be their representative at the House of Commons. But it wasn't so much that a majority of voters cast their ballots in his favour; instead, it's just that his opposition on the right was neatly divided between the Progressive Conservatives and Reform Party.

And through the split in the "right" vote, the incumbent O'Reilly was able to repeat his trick of 1993, coming up between the two to emerge victorious. This time, however, the Reform's Pat Dunn was much closer on his heels.

In the results just before midnight, when not all the polls had been counted, O'Reilly was ahead of Dunn by only 800 votes. Although this wasn't the total count, and O'Reilly was consistently pulling ahead as each poll came in, his margin of victory was much closer than the 3,000-vote spread he enjoyed in 1993.

"We knew it would be close and Bill C68 was a big issue. There is a right wing vote-this is (former Conservative Premier) Leslie Frost's home town," O'Reilly said amidst the din of the crowd gathered at the Lindsay Legion on Monday night. He credited Dunn with running a good campaign and sticking to his platform.

A half an hour earlier, *The Echo* had reached Dunn at his Lindsay campaign headquarters. "I think O'Reilly's going to win it," he said. Why? "Because life's not fair", he quipped.

Asked about the second time O'Reilly was allowed to win because of the split vote on the right, Dunn said "I guess we'll have to get passed it, re-join and re-build (with the Conservatives), otherwise we can expect this to happen on a continuous basis."

Although Chester was able to pick up more votes compared to 1993, when he came third with 10,281 votes, he still was at least 2,000 votes behind Dunn. *The Echo* was unable to reach him by phone for comment on Monday night.

Just past midnight, with 217 of 240 polls counted, the vote was as follows:

Liberal John O'Reilly: 16,399
Reformer Pat Dunn: 15,530
PC Lorne Chester: 12,654
NDP Rick Denyer: 3,194
Canadian Action Charles Olito: 445

In 1993, O'Reilly got 16,486 votes, Reform's Barry Devolin got 13,144, Chester got 10,281, the New Democrat's Cathy Vainio got 1,724, and Olito got 500.

The Echo will have complete election results and commentary in next week's paper.

PineStone sold to group with hotel background

by PETER DOWNS
Staff Reporter

Nearly six months after it was taken into receivership, the Highlands' largest resort has been purchased by a Toronto-based company that is firmly established in the tourist accommodation industry.

Parent company RHK Capital Inc. bought Haliburton's PineStone Resort and Conference Centre for $3.85-million through a subsidiary it has set up to operate the property called PineStone Resort Inc.

The deal, arranged by the resort's receiver, Toronto accounting firm Doane Raymond Ltd., closed Friday.

Among its business holdings, RHK Capital has four other hotels.

One of the properties reportedly is the popular Bristol Place Hotel, near Toronto's Pearson International Airport.

The head of RHK Capital's hotel division, Hans Gerhardt,

See PINESTONE page 6

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A NEW HIGHLANDS TRADTION: For the first time, Sir Sandford Fleming College held its eco-tourism graduation outside at Head Lake Park. Here, Piper Earl Cooper leads Marie Hodgson, a Haliburton representative on the board of governors, college president Brian Desbiens, program professors and graduates across the bridge from the Drag River Municipal Building. Story page 3.

School construction projects get thumbs down from local EIC

by PETER DOWNS
Staff Reporter

Haliburton's school board may have to drastically alter its plans to expand the high school and build a new primary school.

The local committee set up to help merge the education systems in Haliburton, Muskoka and Victoria won't give the board the go ahead to spend more than the allocation levels previously approved by the province.

That could mean the high school expansion and upgrade will have to be scaled back by nearly half.

And the separate primary level school parents have been fighting for to replace Victoria Street School could have to be pared down to an addition at J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School.

The province has agreed to give Haliburton's board $1.4-million towards a $2.8-million renovation project at the high school and $4250,000 towards replacing VSS at a total cost of $850,000.

But the board's expansion plan at the high school has grown to

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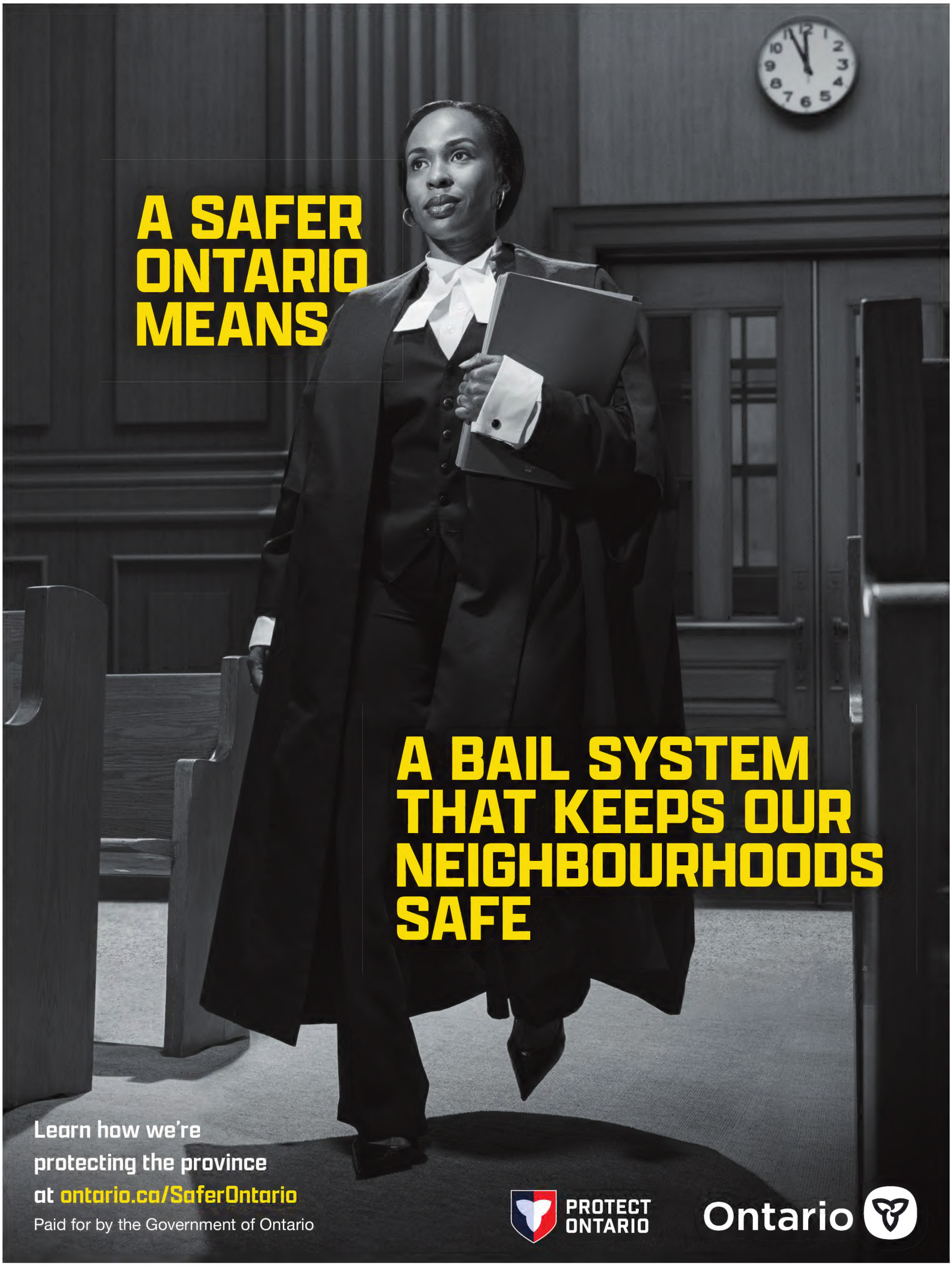
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